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EDITORIAL

World-historic Event in Juche Korea under Wise Guidance of the Great Leader Comrade KIM IL SUNG

The Third Session of the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea adopted and made public a historic law on completely abolishing as from April 1, 1974 the taxation system, a legacy of the old society, in accordance with the policy advanced by the great revolutionary leader Comrade Kim Il Sung.

The news of this marvellous event is immensely stirring all our working people into emotion and joy. They are now unanimous in offering the greatest honour and gratitude, with the feeling of infinite respect and reverence, to the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung who has made our country free from taxation for the first time in the history of mankind.

The abolition of all taxation is a great, auspicious event of the nation that will shine brilliantly in the glorious history of our people and a great event of world-historic importance that will go down in human history forever.

It is another great victory of our people in their struggle for socialism and communism and an epochal event of historic importance in their socio-political life.

The complete abolition of taxation system in our country has translated into reality a dream of the people of living in a world free from the burden of taxation and has made our people the full-fledged masters of the first, tax-free country ever known in history.

This is a great honour, pride and happiness of our people who have respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il Sung as the great leader.

The revolutionary measure taken to abolish all taxes is a splendid fruition of his wise leadership and a definite proof of the great vitality of his Juche idea.

He worked out a revolutionary programme for taxation and led our people along the road to its implementation way back in the years of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and did away with the Japanese imperialist system of predatory colonial taxation and established a popular and democratic system of taxation in a short span of time that followed liberation. He gave an all-round exposition of the character and role of taxation in each period of the revolution. Especially, he uniquely showed the most correct way of the solution of the tax problem under socialism.

At the historic Fourth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung stated:

"By abolishing the income tax on factory and office workers and the agricultural tax-in-kind on the peasants, we will finally eliminate the tax system, a legacy of the old society; we will completely free the working people from the burden of all taxes, thus raising their real income still more." (Kim Il Sung, *Selected Works*, Eng. ed., Vol. III, p. 132.)

In order to carry this great programme into practice the leader gave our Party and people wise guidance; he extricated the peasants before anyone else completely from the burden of all taxes by abolishing agricultural tax-in-kind and now took the historically important measure to eliminate the tax system itself.

The final elimination of the old tax system presents itself as a serious socio-political question for freeing the people from exploitation and oppression and doing away with the survival of the old society.

With the intelligence of genius, unusual ability of leadership and warm love for the working people, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung took a bold, creative measure of historic importance to abolish for good and all the tax system which had long existed since the birth of the exploiting society. Thus, he creditably solved the fundamental question and gave us the pride of being the people of the first, tax-free country in human history. Moreover, he made us the most honourable people who enjoy the benefits of the communist measures in a wider scope. The abolition of all taxes has brought the people in the world to see with their own eyes a country where the long-cherished desire of the working people to live free from the burden of all taxes has been successfully realized, the country called a "country of miracle" or "cradleland of Juche" under the guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung. The days are gone never to return when tax was regarded as something that lasts as long as the state exists, and a new era without tax has been ushered in.

The complete liquidation of tax system in Korea is a living proof that the ardent desire the working people cherished as a dream — a desire to live in an ideal human society free from exploitation, oppression and miscellaneous levies— has come true; it is a declaration shaking the capitalist society to its very foundation and a source of powerful strength that dynamically inspires the people to the struggle for destroying the bulwark of imperialism and colonialism.

The abolition of all taxation in our country where the people rely on themselves is a revolutionary event which demonstrates to the world the incomparable superiority and invincible might of our socialist system which reflects the great Juche idea.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung pointed out:

"Our socialist system is the best social system under which the working masses are masters of everything and everything in society serves the working masses." ("Let Us Further Strengthen the Socialist System of Our Country," Eng. ed., p. 25.)

The historically important, bold measure such as the complete abolition of tax system is unthinkable apart from our socialist system and our powerful socialist independent national economy which were built thanks to the wise guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung.

The miraculous event of epochal significance, the like of which is scarcely to be found in human history, clearly proves with a stark fact that the socialist path alone, followed under the banner of the Juche idea, indicates a way of freeing all peoples from class exploitation and national oppression and providing them with genuine freedom and happiness as well as an independent, creative life.

Especially, the complete abolition of tax system is a declaration which has a bomb-shell effect on the vicious machinations of the imperialists and all the reactionaries to impair the dignity of socialism and obscure its rays. It is a great historic contribution to infusing hope and confidence into the minds of the people in the southern half who are waging a valiant struggle to build a new society free from all sorts of exploitation, oppression and taxes and to powerfully encouraging the struggle of hundreds of millions of revolutionary people the world over.

The complete abolition of the tax system, a hangover from the old society, is a brilliant fruition of the great love and profound solicitude of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung for our people.

The leader dedicates his all, solely for the freedom and liberation of the people and for their happy life. In the arduous days of the anti-Japanese armed struggle, he showed meticulous concern for the people in the guerilla bases to provide them with all conditions to lead a free and stabilized life without exploitation and oppression. In the prewar rehabilitation period when a huge amount of funds were needed for the building of a new country and in the grim days of the war decisive of the destiny of the fatherland and in the postwar days when everything was destroyed and reduced to ashes, he looked after the life of the people with warm affection as he did in the years of anti-Japanese armed struggle. Nor is this all. He lessened their tax burdens systematically and today has shown such a profound solicitude as totally abolishing even the negligible taxes. That is why our people believe firmly that their happiness of today and their bright future owe to the leader and that a still greater victory will surely be achieved in future thanks to him. And that is why they dash ahead vigorously along the path indicated by him, with intense loyalty, rallied close around him.

The leader loves the people immensely and the people entrust their destiny entirely to him and serve him with boundless loyalty. The ties of kinship and great unity between the leader and the people—this is a source of inexhaustible strength which enables us to realize any cause once we determine to do. And this is a firm guarantee for victory.

To hold the leader in high esteem and remain loyal to him forever, rallied closer around him—this is the way to live up to the great favour of the leader who has made it possible for our people to enjoy the happiest life in the world and become a tax-free people today. And this is the way to bring about the eternal prosperity and happiness of our people down through the age.

Victory and glory are in store for our people who hold the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung in great respect and advance dynamically along the path indicated by him.

Third Session of Fifth Supreme People's Assembly Closes with Success

The Third Session of the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea which opened at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang on March 20, attended by the great leader of our Party and people Comrade Kim Il Sung, President of the State of the DPRK, successfully discussed all the items on the agenda and came to a close on the 25th.

At the third-day sitting on the 22nd, deputy Kim Gyong Ryon, Minister of Finance, delivered a report on the second item on the agenda: **"On the Review of the Execution of the State Budget for 1973 and the State Budget for 1974 of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea".**

Deputy O Tae Bong, Chairman of the SPA Budget Committee, reported on the result of the Budget Committee's examination of the review of the execution of last year's state budget and this year's state budget. He proposed to the SPA to approve the review of the execution of the state budget for 1973 and the state budget for 1974 in its original form.

Deputy Tong Sun Mo, Director of the North Hamgyong Provincial General Bureau of Construction, and many other deputies spoke on the second item of the agenda.

At the last sitting held on the 25th the decision approving the review of the execution of the state budget for 1973 of the DPRK and the law on the state budget for 1974 of the DPRK were adopted respectively with the approval of all the deputies present.

The third item of the agenda: **"On the Creation of Prerequisites for the Removal of Tension in Korea and Promotion of the Country's Independent and Peaceful Reunification"** was earnestly discussed at the sitting which was held at a time when the vigorous nation-wide struggle was being waged for the complete victory of socialism and for accelerating the cause of country's reunification under the great guidance of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung.

Deputy Ho Dam, Vice-Premier of the Administration Council and Foreign Minister, delivered a report on the third item.

Deputy Kim Dong Gyu spoke of the item on behalf of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea. Deputy Kim Song Ryul and Chairman Kang Jang Su also spoke, each representing the CC of the Korean Democratic Party and the CC of the Chondoist Chongu Party.

The last-day sitting clearly showed again that no force can break the adamant will of our Party and people to achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country overcoming all obstacles under the wise guidance of the leader and that our Party and the Government of our Republic had been making the most fair and serious efforts for national reunification and for the cause of peace in Korea and Asia.

The session adopted a letter to the Congress of the United States of America in the name of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK.

SPA Chairman Hwang Jang Yop gave a closing address.

At the moment the session was declared closed, all the deputies and others present sent up rousing cheers "Long live the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung", renewing their firm resolve to arm themselves thoroughly with his immortal Juche idea and admirably fulfil with all their talents and energies the programmatic tasks advanced by him at the Fifth Party Congress, the Eighth Plenary Meeting of the Fifth Central Committee of the Party, the National Congress on Industry and the National Congress on Agriculture and thus loyally live up to his deep trust and expectation.

NEW, ACTIVE MEASURE TO REMOVE TENSION IN KOREA AND ACCELERATE INDEPENDENT, PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF THE COUNTRY

Letter to the Congress of the United States of America

The Third Session of the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has discussed the question of creating a prerequisite for removing tension in Korea and accelerating the country's independent and peaceful reunification and sends this letter to both the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America.

All the Korean people and the peace-lovers the world over were greatly stirred up by the bright prospects for the preservation of peace in Korea and the settlement of her reunification problem, when the North-South Joint Statement was made public in July 1972.

But today, after the lapse of almost two years since then, developments in Korea have been quite the opposite to what the people had expected.

Tension seemed to be relaxed temporarily, but it has been aggravated again. Only military confrontation and war danger have daily been increasing, instead of prospects for peaceful reunification.

The prevailing situation naturally causes apprehensions of the people of the world and urgently demands that proper measures for the solution of the situation be adopted.

The Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea still firmly believes that for the prevention of war and the removal of tension in Korea and the promotion of her peaceful reunification, it is necessary, first of all, to eliminate the military confrontation between the north and the south.

In fact, under the condition of huge armed forces standing opposed to each other as today, it is impossible to successfully solve any problems, big and small, which are related to the peaceful reunification of Korea.

Ever since the armistice in Korea the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has put forward time and again various reasonable proposals such as proposals for the reduction of armaments and the conclusion of a peace agreement, as a step for converting armistice into a durable peace.

Even after the start of the dialogue between the north and the south, we presented the elimination of the north-south military confrontation as a question to be settled before everything else.

If any of our peaceful proposals had been put into practice, durable peace would have been ensured in Korea and tension would not have been so aggravated again as we see today.

The south Korean authorities, however, have not responded to our proposals for the stoppage of the reinforcement of armed forces and arms drive, the reduction of the armies and armaments, the withdrawal of foreign troops and the conclusion of a peace agreement but have pushed forward war preparations.

Backed by the United States, the south Korean authorities have incessantly clamoured about the fictitious "threat of southward aggression", implored the prolonged presence of the US troops in south Korea and deliberately aggravated the relations between the north and the south in an attempt to oppose the country's reunification and repress the south Korean people.

With a view to covering up such acts of theirs, recently they put forward a proposal to conclude a "non-aggression pact" with us.

But it is well known to the world that it is not the south Korean authorities but the US commander who holds the prerogative of supreme command of the army in south Korea today. The south Korean authorities who do not have the prerogative of supreme command of the army propose to conclude a "non-aggression pact" while leaving the US troops to stay on in south Korea. This is an empty talk without any guarantee of peace and accordingly, is not worth discussing at all.

It is the United States that has encouraged the south Korean authorities in all their acts to turn down our independent and peace-loving proposals unconditionally.

Even after the dialogue started between the north and south of Korea, the United States has increased the military aid and armed support to south Korea, saying that the dialogue should be backed up by the armed forces, and has frequently committed provocations against the northern half of the Republic, staged war exercises and perpetrated espionage acts by sending high-speed, high-altitude reconnaissance planes and thus has intensified tension ceaselessly.

We, therefore, consider that the responsibility for the failure in Korea's reunification and for the current tense situation and danger of war in Korea rests chiefly with the US government authorities.

It is becoming increasingly evident that as long as the US troops remain in south Korea it is impossible to remove tension and consolidate peace in Korea and that the south Korean authorities have no intention and ability at all to solve this problem.

The reality calls for concluding a peace agreement directly with the United States which stations its troops in south Korea and holds the prerogative of supreme command of all the forces, in order to create a prerequisite for removing tension in Korea, eliminating the external factors obstructing Korea's independent and peaceful reunification and for enabling the Korean people to solve the reunification problem independently by themselves.

The Chinese People's Volunteers withdrew from Korea long ago, and no troops of the "UN forces" but the US troops remain there. Under this condition, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States, the signatories to the Korean Armistice Agreement, are the virtual parties concerned.

At present the Armistice Agreement itself has become already outdated and does not conform to the reality in many respects. To replace the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement does not brook any further delay.

The Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea considers that a peace agreement to be concluded with the United States of America may include the following measures:

Firstly, both sides shall pledge to each other not to invade the other side and shall remove all dangers of direct armed conflict.

The United States shall be bound in duty not to incite the south Korean authorities to the war provocation manoeuvres and fascist repression of the south Korean people or patronize them, not to hinder the north and south of Korea from reunifying it independently and peacefully in accordance with the North-South Joint Statement and not to meddle in the internal affairs of Korea.

Secondly, both sides shall discontinue the reinforcement of armed force and arms drive and stop introducing all weapons, combat equipment and war supplies from beyond the boundary of Korea.

Thirdly, the foreign troops in south Korea shall strip themselves of the "UN forces" helmet and all of them withdraw at the earliest possible date, taking all weapons along.

Fourthly, Korea shall not be reduced to a military or operational base for any foreign country after the withdrawal of all the foreign troops from south Korea.

The Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea formally proposes that talks be held for the conclusion of a peace agreement between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States of America, with the above-mentioned measures as a premise.

The talks may be composed of delegates of a higher level than those to the Military Armistice Commission now functioning at Panmunjom and Panmunjom or a third country may be designated as the place of talks.

The relations will be improved between the north and south of Korea and an atmosphere favourable to the independent, peaceful solution of the reunification problem be created when the question of replacing the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement in Korea is settled successfully.

Our new proposal fully accords with the interests of the people of the United States and of world peace as well.

The Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea expects that the Congress of the United States of America and the US government authorities will direct serious attention to our new peaceful proposal and make an affirmative response to this.

The Supreme People's Assembly
of the Democratic People's Republic
of Korea

Pyongyang, March 25, 1974

The Respected and Beloved Leader Comrade KIM IL SUNG

Sends Gifts to Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung sent gifts to Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

A meeting for conveying the gifts from the respected and beloved leader was held in Islamabad on March 8, according to a report from Islamabad.

Hanging in the meeting hall were the national flags of our country and Pakistan.

The meeting was attended by M. Yakhuv, acting Minister of Agriculture; government officials and personages concerned of Pakistan.

Also present were An Yong Ho, Charge d'Affaires ad interim, and staffers, of our embassy in Pakistan.

The gifts of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung to the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan were conveyed by the Charge d'Affaires ad interim of the DPRK Embassy to the acting Minister of Agriculture of Pakistan at the meeting.

The meeting was addressed by the Charge d'Affaires ad interim of the DPRK Embassy and acting Minister of Agriculture M. Yakhuv of Pakistan.

In his speech the acting Minister of Agriculture said that he felt happy and honoured to be conveyed the gifts from President Kim Il Sung of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Prime Minister of Pakistan. Authorized by the Pakistani Prime Minister, he expressed deep thanks to President Kim Il Sung for the gifts.

Asking the Charge d'Affaires ad interim to convey the heartfelt thanks of the Pakistani Prime Minister and people to the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung and the friendly Korean people, he expressed the conviction that the friendly and fraternal relations existing between Pakistan and Korea would further develop.

TELEGRAMS

✦ The respected and beloved leader Comrade **Kim Il Sung**, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and President of the State of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Comrade **Kim Il**, Premier of the Administration Council of the DPRK, exchanged messages of greetings with Comrade **L. Brezhnev**, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Comrade **N. Podgorny**, President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and Comrade **A. Kosygin**, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the conclusion of the agreement on economic and cultural cooperation between the DPRK and the USSR.

✦ The respected and beloved leader Comrade **Kim Il Sung**, President of the State of the DPRK, sent a message of greetings to **Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah**, Emir of State of Kuwait, on the occasion of the national holiday of Kuwait and received a reply message from him.

✦ The respected and beloved leader Comrade **Kim Il Sung**, General Secretary of the CC of the WPK and President of the State of the DPRK, received a message of thanks from **Carlos Altamirano Orrego**, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Chile, for expressing his firm solidarity with the Chilean people in their struggle against the imperialist fascist aggression.

✦ The respected and beloved leader Comrade **Kim Il Sung**, President of the State of the DPRK, received a message from **U Ne Win**, President of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma, in reply to his message of greetings on the independence day of the SRUB.

✦ The respected and beloved leader Comrade **Kim Il Sung**, President of the State of the DPRK, sent a message of greetings to **Urho Kekkonen** on the latter's reassumption of office as President of the Republic of Finland and received a reply from the latter.

✦ The respected and beloved leader Comrade **Kim Il Sung**, President of the State of the DPRK, sent a message of greetings to **U Ne Win** upon his inauguration as President of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma.

Korean National Association— Eternal Torchlight

Kim Hyong Jik, father of the great revolutionary leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, an outstanding leader of the anti-Japanese national-liberation movement in Korea and a great pioneer in changing the course of struggle from the nationalist movement to the communist movement, formed the Korean National Association in Ponghwa-ri, Kangdong County, South Pyongan Province, on March 23, 1917.

The KNA was a revolutionary organization whose fighting goal was to win Korean independence through the efforts of the Korean people themselves. It was the most steadfast revolutionary organization in the stand against imperialism and the biggest and most active anti-Japanese underground revolutionary organization in the period before the dissemination of Marxism-Leninism in our country.

At that time the Japanese imperialists intensified tyrannical repression day by day and all the patriotic-minded Korean people waged various forms of anti-Japanese patriotic struggle including volunteers' struggle with a firm determination to repulse the Japanese imperialist aggressors and restore the country.

All the struggles, however, were devoid of the right objective and the correct method of struggle and were doomed to failure on account of their spontaneous and dispersed characters.

The situation then prevailing and the actual conditions of the anti-Japanese national-liberation movement made it highly necessary to indicate the people the correct way of struggle, unite all the anti-Japanese patriotic forces and lead diverse forms of anti-Japanese struggle in a uniform way.

This urgent requirement was met by Kim Hyong Jik for the first time.

Kim Hyong Jik was born in a patriotic family and embarked on the road of revolution with lofty aims from his early years. He led the anti-Japanese struggle already in his middle school days. Unable to pay school expenses he left the school at the halfway mark. After that he became a professional revolutionary and plunged into activity to build up the anti-Japanese patriotic forces and organize them.

While conducting activities with Pyongyang as the centre, he got in touch with patriotic figures active in the Kangdong and Sunchon areas at home and Chientao, Shanghai and other areas abroad and propagated patriotism among the broad masses of the people. On the other hand, he mustered a large number of men of the same mind. Thus he laid the foundations for the formation of an anti-Japanese underground organization. Having made thoroughgoing preparations, he organized the KNA.

Forming the KNA, Kim Hyong Jik clarified its organizational principle and the path to be taken by it as follows:

Membership: The KNA admits those who pledge themselves to fight at the risk of their lives for fatherland liberation.

Aim: The KNA achieves Korean independence by the Korean people themselves by repulsing the Western imperialist forces which will extend their influence to the Orient and the Japanese imperialist forces when they will struggle for supremacy. To realize this purpose, it builds up the revolutionary forces and makes full preparation for the present.

Practical activity: The KNA maintains contact with patriotic organizations at home and abroad and spreads its organizational network to different parts of the homeland and gradually to foreign countries, particularly to the Chientao area of China.

—It has the central commanding post of activity in the Pyongyang area. It sends political workers to provinces of Kyongsang, Cholla and Hwanghae and other areas to expand its force. It has district leaders in these areas to lead its members in a uniform way. Their gathering is convened on the opening day of the Pyongyang Sungsil Middle School every spring.

—It sends its liaison personnel to Antung and posts its correspondents in Peking.

—To maintain the secrecy of the organization, code is used entirely between comrades and between organizations, namely, for the KNA the words "industry", "agriculture" and "trade" are used and for the mentality of comrades the word "thermometre" used.

—It strives to raise funds and procure arms, singles out its fine members and rears them into military cadres.

The KNA made it clear that the independence of Korea should be attained in a revolutionary way, not by relying on foreign forces but on its own internal forces, and specifically, by properly combining political, economic and military activities instead of through petitions or reformation. The fighting goal of the KNA and the ways and means for its attainment fully reflected Kim Hyong Jik's spirit of national independence and revolutionary spirit.

After the creation of the KNA, he personally and energetically organized and guided all the revolutionary work—the summoning up of kindred spirits, the expansion of the organization, the training of military cadres and able men, the raising of funds, the purchase of weapons, the propaganda of the anti-Japanese patriotic ideas among the broad masses of the people, etc.— with Pyongyang and Kangdong as the theatre of activity.

In a little over six months following the formation of the KNA, many patriotic people were united in it and its sphere of activity was expanded to different areas of the country including provinces of Pyongan, Hwanghae and Kyonggi and to Peking, Shanghai, Antung and other areas outside the country.

Along with the KNA, Kim Hyong Jik formed such legal organizations as the Hakgyo-gye (School Association), the Pisok-gye (Stone Monument Association) and the Hyangto-gye (Local Community Association) and, skillfully combining legal with illegal activities, conducted educational, cultural and political activities in diverse forms and methods on the basis of the patriotic idea of Chiwon (Aim High!) to unite the broad masses of people of all strata and educate them in the anti-Japanese, patriotic ideas.

The spirit of national independence advocated by the KNA under the leadership of Kim Hyong Jik soon gripped the hearts of the people throughout the country and powerfully roused them to the anti-Japanese struggle.

Following the founding of the KNA, various forms of massive anti-Japanese struggle—strikes, demonstrations and riots of workers and peasants against Japanese imperialist colonial rule, the struggle of youth and students against colonial slave education, etc.—were waged fiercely all over the country.

The setting up of the KNA by Kim Hyong Jik, his revolutionary activities and the powerful anti-Japanese struggle dealt heavy blows to the Japanese imperialists and struck them with terror.

The KNA was an out-and-out anti-imperialist, revolutionary organization. It cleared off the dark clouds heavily hanging over the heads of our people. It indicated the correct way of national liberation movement and attained brilliant achievements in the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle for winning the country's independence by the Korean people themselves.

The KNA organized and led by Kim Hyong Jik added a brilliant page to the modern revolutionary history of our country. Its immortal achievements will shine forever in the history of our people.

Kim Ik Gwon

The Ponghwa historic spot associated with revolutionary struggle is visited by many foreigners

"Kim Hyong Jik's is a name revered throughout the world as a great revolutionary and father of Comrade Kim Il Sung, leader of the world revolution.

Kim Hyong Jik through his Korean National Association paved the way for the Korean revolution to attain success under the leadership of his illustrious son Comrade Kim Il Sung today....

Indeed Kim Hyong Jik played a pioneering role in developing the Korean national movement for liberation....

Long live the spirit of Kim Hyong Jik." (P.L. Lakhanpal, Chairman of All-India Democratic Party and Editor of Evening View)

"We realized with vividness the patriotic and revolutionary activities of Kim Hyong Jik and felt admiration for his courage and determination to liberate his people from the yoke of Japanese imperialism....

From Visitors' Book of Ponghwa Revolutionary Museum

His patriotic and revolutionary activities set an example to us combatants for national independence and freedom."

(Joio Quadalupe Viegas De Ceita, Member of the Liberation Committee of Sao Tome and Principe and Chief of the Study Group of the Ideas of Comrade Kim Il Sung in Africa)

"The torch of the revolution is blazing eternally....

Indeed, Ponghwa-ri is the site where Kim Hyong Jik founded the Korean National Association and this National Association kindled the flame of the revolutionary struggle of the Korean people.

This flame turned into a flame enkindled by Comrade Kim Il Sung to show that the Korean people are alive.

And this flame is flaring up ever more fiercely as a flame and beacon illumining the path of the world revolutionary struggle." (Information Delegate of the Government of Yemen)

"Ponghwa the torch!

To us it is Ponghwa-ri the torch that lit the light for the Korean revolution. Although the destiny of the country at the time was in darkness, Ponghwa brought the very needed light.

While the Korean people were languishing under the Japanese imperialists, Ponghwa brought dignity. At the time when the people were despairing under the grip of the imperialists, Ponghwa brought hope.

Ponghwa the torch!

To us the revolutionary activities of Kim Hyong Jik, the father of the beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, are not only vividly engraved in Ponghwa-ri but also in our hearts as well as the hearts of the entire Korean populations.

...

May Ponghwa-ri live long!

We are leaving you. But your light will always shine in our hearts."

(Joseph Mzuri and Felix Kaiza from Tanzania)

On the Review of the Execution of the State Budget for 1973 and the State Budget for 1974 of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Report of Deputy Kim Gyong Ryon, Minister of Finance, Made at the Third Session of the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly (Summary)

In the first part of the report "On the Review of the Execution of the State Budget for 1973" Deputy Kim Gyong Ryon, Minister of Finance, said:

Under the wise guidance of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung last year the entire working people of our country made a heroic exploit, increasing industrial output by 19 per cent.

As a result, our country's industrial output in 1973 increased 1.6 times higher than in 1970. During this period it grew by 17 per cent on an annual average.

The high rate of our industrial development again eloquently proves the great truth of the leader's brilliant idea that if the masses' revolutionary enthusiasm is roused by properly doing political work and technology is improved unceasingly, the economy can be developed as quickly as we want, however great its scale.

As the socialist economic construction was carried out by the entire working people at a high speed last year, the state budget was fulfilled successfully.

Last year's state budgetary revenue was 8,599,310,000 *won* or 0.7 per cent more than the planned figures of 8,543,510,000 *won*. This is an increment of 15.7 per cent over the previous year.

The revenue from the socialist economy represented 98.1 per cent of the total state budgetary revenue while tax revenue from the population was merely 1.9 per cent.

The rapid augmentation of the state budgetary revenue enabled us to fully meet the tremendous financial requirements of the revolution and construction, with the excess of revenue over expenditure amounting to 285,400,000 *won*, and this strengthened the foundations of the nation's independent finance still further.

Last year's state budgetary expenditure was 8,313,910,000 *won* or 97.3 per cent as compared with the planned figure. It was a 12.5 per cent increase over the previous year.

The Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Republic allotted a huge amount of funds to the rapid development of the national economy and, especially, invested funds, 1.3 times larger than in 1972, in capital construction.

Thus capital construction was carried out extensively in all branches of the national economy; as for the construction of productive establishments alone, more than 14,000 projects were completed and put into operation and many other construction projects were stepped up with success.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung taught:

"The most important task facing us in the fulfilment of the three major tasks of the technical revolution last year was to concentrate efforts on the rural technical revolution to meet 1974, the significant tenth anniversary of the publication of the 'Theses on the Socialist Rural Question in Our Country'."

In accordance with the leader's teaching on concentrating efforts on the rural technical revolution, our Party and the Government of the Republic energetically stepped up the rural construction last year by appropriating funds 1.5 times as much as in the previous year.

With the energetic stepping up of the rural technical revolution, last year the number of tractors for every 100 *chongbo* of cultivated land reached 2-2.5, and in the plain areas 3-4. Firm material foundations have been laid for applying more than one ton of chemical fertilizer per *chongbo* in terms of weight and over 200 kilogrammes in terms of ingredients.

Last year we made a great effort to further consolidate the country's heavy industry centres.

The state reconstructed and enlarged the existing coal and ore mines on a large scale and supplied them with various kinds of up-to-date mining equipment. Large-scale iron ore mines were also set up in the western region and promising coal mines developed in different localities.

Last year the state extensively pushed forward the construction of many large-scale, modern heavy industry factories.

Last year also witnessed great progress in mechanization, semi-automation and automation of production processes.

Especially noteworthy is the fact that last year under the guidance and care of the Party Centre the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex, the Kangson Steel Complex, the February 8 Cement Factory and many other factories established the system of directing production through industrial TV network and radio communication service and switched over to automation and telemechanics of production processes. This effected an epochal change in ensuring the prompt direction of production, augmenting production and eliminating toilsome and heat-affected work.

Powerfully supported by heavy industry, a big headway was also made in the production of consumer goods.

Last year the Party and the Government invested in this field a huge sum of money, 1.7 times over 1972.

Last year the output of fabrics considerably increased as against 1972; vinalon fibre products—1.7 times, sweaters and jackets—1.5 times, leather shoes—1.8 times, processed meat—1.4 times and processed fruit—1.4 times.

Last year our fishermen, boundlessly true to the Party, caught fish 1.2 times more than in the previous year.

Last year the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Republic directed great efforts to transport. As a result, the 88-km railway project between Sinchon and Unryul and the electrification of the Chongjin-Rajin line were completed. Railway factories were expanded to increase the production of freight cars 1.4 times in one year.

While expediting economic construction to the maximum, last year the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Republic directed due attention to the strengthening of the nation's defence capacities in keeping with the requirements of the situation and spent 15.4 per cent of the total amount of the state budgetary expenditure for national defence.

Saying that last year's spendings for social and cultural needs were 12 per cent greater than those in 1972, the reporter referred to the big successes gained in this field.

The reporter said:

We owe all these brilliant successes achieved last year in the general socialist construction of the country and in the fulfilment of the state budget to the wise and seasoned guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung who, by applying his immortal Juche idea in all realms of the revolution and construction, has converted our country into a mighty socialist state with a powerful independent national economy, laid the solid foundation of independent finance, unrolled the brilliant blueprint of the Six-Year Plan and unswervingly led our people to its successful fulfilment.

The reporter exposed the aggressive policy and war provocation manoeuvres of the US imperialists, the Japanese militarists' renewed invasion and the nation-splitting machinations and military provocations of the south Korean puppet clique.

He went on:

This year the south Korean fascist ruling clique have increased their military outlay more than 15 times compared with the year before they usurped power at the point of the bayonet. Pak Jung Hi has increased the "general spendings" to a great extent in the "budgetary expenditure" and allocated more than 80 per cent of the "budgetary expenditure" for stepping up fascist oppression and war preparations. The taxes account for more than 84 per cent of the puppet clique's "budgetary revenue" for this year, 25 times the figures of 1960.

All this eloquently shows that this year's "budget" of the south Korean puppet clique is a "budget of repression" of the people, a predatory "war budget" to speed up frantically war preparations by squeezing the people and a "budget of treachery" to keep the split of the nation and sell out the country.

In the second part of the report "On the State Budget for 1974" the reporter said:

At the Eighth Plenary Meeting of the Fifth Central Committee of the Party, the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung wisely analyzed and assessed the present external and internal situation, put forward the ten major goals of economic construction to scale a higher peak of socialism by dashing forward at a faster speed after capturing all heights of the Six-Year Plan by the 30th birthday of the glorious Workers' Party of Korea and vigorously aroused our people to an allout charge for the grand socialist construction.

The state budget for this year is a budget for grand construction, a budget for great upsurge, which reflects the heroic stamina of our working people who are vigorously advancing at a "new Chollima speed, a new Pyongyang speed" to put into effect the leader's great plan, upholding the banner of the three revolutions—ideological, technical and cultural.

The total amounts of the state budgetary revenue and expenditure for 1974 are estimated at 9,801,210,000 *won* respectively.

This year the state budgetary revenue is expected to increase to 114 per cent as against last year, even under the condition of the abolition of all taxes and drastic cut of prices of manufactured goods.

Because the state budgetary revenue rapidly increases on a solid basis, this year the state budgetary expenditure will grow by 18 per cent compared with last year.

This year the state budgetary expenditure will be used mainly for the national economy, for capital construction in particular.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung taught in his New Year Address for this year:

"This year we should direct the efforts of the whole Party and the whole state to capital construction and effect a great upsurge in construction.

"The key to the preschedule fulfilment of the Six-Year Plan in all branches of the national economy lies in successful capital construction this year. The Central Committee of the Party defined this year as a year of construction and decided to concentrate efforts on capital construction."

This year the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Republic will increase investments in capital construction from the state budget 1.5 times as against last year, in order to carry out the policy of grand socialist construction put forward by the leader.

The sharp increase of investments in capital construction needed for grand socialist construction is the firm guarantee that the Six-Year Plan will be fulfilled ahead of schedule and the foundations will be laid for capturing the height of 12 million tons of steel, height of one million tons of nonferrous metal, height of 100 million tons of coal, height of 50,000 million kwh of electric power, height of 20 million tons of cement, height of 5 million tons of machinery and equipment, height of 5 million tons of marine products, height of 5 million tons of chemical fertilizers, height of 100,000 *chongbo* of reclaimed tideland and height of 10 million tons of grain, which are the ten major goals of economic construction we should attain in the years of the next perspective plan.

This year the Party and the Government will direct great efforts to the industrial front which is the leading sector of grand socialist construction and make 1.6 times as much investments as last year in this front to promote industrial construction greatly.

The reporter said that the state would make 1.6 times as much investments as last year in the mining industry, 2.5 times in the metallurgical industry and 1.9 times in the chemical and building-materials industries.

Saying that the state would continue directing great efforts to the engineering industry, the reporter noted that the production of tractors would be increased 2.3 times and that of trucks 1.4 times in one year and extra-big machine tools, 100-ton lorries, 20,000-ton ships and other large-size machines be manufactured and the production of ordered equipment, various automation elements, gauges and instruments be sharply boosted.

This year the state investments in light industry will be 1.5 times higher than last year, he said, and continued:

This year the output of knitwear will grow 1.3 times, television sets 2.1 times, sewing machines 1.3 times, electric rice-cooking pots 1.9 times, candies 1.5 times, cakes 1.3 times and cooking oil 1.6 times.

The financial support of the state rendered for the development of the rural economy and the improvement of the farmers' living standards in the past ten years amounts to as much as 4,051 million *won*.

The reporter went on:

The Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Republic will increase this year the budgetary expenditure in agriculture 1.7 times as much as last year.

This will enable us to carry out this year creditably the highly important task of increasing the number of tractors serving the rural economy to 70,000-80,000 and raising to one ton or more the amount of chemical fertilizer to be applied per *chongbo* of the arable land.

This year the state investment in the field of transport will be 1.4 times greater than last year and investments in the fishery front will also be greatly increased.

The Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Republic will earmark 16 per cent of the total state budgetary expenditure for this year in national defence, continue

(Continued on Page 4)

On the Creation of Prerequisites for the Removal of Tension in Korea and Promotion of the Country's Independent and Peaceful Reunification

Report of Deputy Ho Dam, Vice-Premier of the Administration Council and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Made at the Third Session of the Fifth Supreme People's Assembly (Summary).

The reporter pointed out that it is nearly 30 years since Korea was artificially divided and 20 years have already passed since the armistice was achieved in Korea. But our fatherland, he said, has not yet been reunified and, with the military confrontation between the north and the south dragging on, the tension is growing acute with each passing day and a constant danger of war is felt.

To clear away tension in Korea and expedite peaceful reunification is not only a vital question for the entire Korean people, but also one of the very important questions directly related to peace in Asia and the world. Therefore, when dialogue began between the north and the south of Korea which had been closed to each other for a long time and the North-South Joint Statement the keynote of which is the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity was made public thanks to the consistent efforts of our Party and the Government of the Republic, all the peace-loving people of the world, not to speak of the entire Korean people, warmly welcomed this as an epochal event opening a bright prospect for the peaceful reunification of Korea and conducive to the cause of Asian and world peace and ardently hoped in unison that the north-south dialogue would make progress to bring an early realization of the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

Owing to the manoeuvres of the splittists within and without, however, big hurdles are still lying in the way of national reunification and the situation in our country is developing contrary to the desire and expectation of the Korean people and the world people. The reporter noted that due to the south Korean rulers' perfidious contravention of the North-South Joint Statement the north-south dialogue has been deadlocked and the north-south relations have, in fact, returned to those before the announcement of the North-South Joint Statement. As a result, our country is now at a grave juncture—reunification or division, one Korea or two Koreas, he remarked, and went on:

If prerequisites are to be created to remove the tension in Korea and promote the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, it is necessary, above all, to put an end to the interference of the United States in the internal affairs of our country, make the US troops withdraw from south Korea, remove military confrontation and ease tension between the north and the south and turn the unstable Korean armistice into a durable peace.

He quoted the following words of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung:

"To improve the present relations between the north and south of Korea and accelerate the peaceful reunification of the country, it is necessary, first of all, to eliminate military confrontation and ease tension between the north and south."

Then the reporter referred to the fact that the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Republic put forward a series of reasonable proposals to remove the tension between the north and the south and achieve the country's peaceful reunification and have made positive efforts for their materialization. He said:

In August 1955, the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung proposed that all foreign troops be withdrawn from Korea and, at the same time, the north and south Korean authorities announce to the Korean people and the people of the whole world that they would not use armed forces in any form against the other side and would assume the duty to solve the question of the country's reunification only by peaceful means.

At the First Session of the Second Supreme People's Assembly held in September 1957 and the subsequent SPA sessions convened on a number of occasions, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea repeatedly advanced proposals to conclude an agreement between the north and the south on refraining from use of armed forces against the other side and drastically reduce the armies of north and south Korea under the conditions in which the US troops are withdrawn from south Korea.

At the Fifth Session of the Fourth Supreme People's Assembly in April 1971, the Government of the DPRK, in its eight-point proposal for national reunification, suggested that the US troops be withdrawn from south Korea and the armed forces of the north and the south be cut to 100,000 men or less respectively and the "ROK-US mutual defence pact" and "ROK-Japan treaty" and all other treacherous and shackling treaties which the south Korean "regime" concluded be abrogated.

Even after the start of the dialogue between the north and the south of Korea we raised it as the first and foremost question to remove the military confrontation between the north and the south and made sustained efforts for its solution.

Saying that for the removal of the tension in Korea it is necessary first of all to replace the Korean Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement between the north and the south, the leader newly proposed in January 1972 that a peace agreement be concluded between the north and the south and the armed forces of the north and the south of Korea be drastically cut under the conditions in which the US troops are withdrawn from south Korea.

Later, we repeatedly advanced to the south Korean authorities as the first step towards the achievement of the country's peaceful reunification the five-point proposal, that is, the discontinuation of arms reinforcement and arms race, withdrawal of all foreign troops, reduction of armies and armaments, cessation of the introduction of weapons from foreign countries and conclusion of a peace agreement.

The five-point proposal on removing the present military confrontation between the north and the south is a realistic way of laying a practical ground for trust between the two sides of the north and the south, preventing the possibility of the outbreak of another war and easing the tension in our country.

In his historic speech of June 23, 1973, the leader advanced the five-point proposition for national reunification and raised, as its first point, the question of eliminating military confrontation and easing tension between the north and the south.

If any of the peaceful initiatives taken by us had been translated into reality, the situation in Korea would not have been screwed up to such a pitch as it is today, the reporter said. He then pointed to the fact that the south Korean authorities turned down all the reasonable proposals of ours and are continuously stepping up war preparations and ceaselessly perpetrating armed provocations against the northern half of the Republic.

The reporter said that the so-called "non-aggression pact" put forward by the south Korean authorities some time ago is one of the tricks to oppose the peace agreement proposed by us and a plot to leave the US imperialist aggressor troops to remain in south Korea, keep the military confrontation, perpetuate the division of the country and maintain the present military fascist rule. And he stated that it is not the south Korean authorities but the US commander disguised as the "UN commander" who has the prerogative of the supreme command of the army in south Korea. Such being the case, he said, it is ridiculous for the south Korean authorities to propose to us to conclude a "non-aggression pact", while letting the US troops stay on in south Korea. Their proposal is meaningless and not worth discussing at all, he added.

The reporter stressed:

Due to such act of the south Korean authorities, the dialogue between the north and the south has come to the verge of rupture and the situation is moving to division, not reunification, and to war, not peace.

The US imperialists are the wire-puller of all acts of the south Korean authorities who categorically rejected our independent and peace-loving initiatives and are keying up the tension again in Korea.

We, therefore, consider that the US government authorities are chiefly to blame for the strained situation and the danger of war created in Korea today.

The reporter underscored the fact that in his historic speech made on March 4 last, the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung proposed once again to convene a Great National Congress or a north-south political consultative conference to be participated in by the representatives of all political parties and social organizations and personages of all strata in the north and the south, apart from the North-South Co-ordination Commission with a view to bridging over the present difficulties and promoting the country's peaceful reunification and he declared that we would always actively support the south Korean people's just struggle for the democratization of south Korean society and the country's peaceful reunification with might and main. The reporter said:

The present situation requires an ever more intensified struggle against the splittists to prevent a division of the country and achieve its peaceful reunification.

And today's reality of our country makes it necessary to settle the question of signing a peace agreement directly with the United States in order to create prerequisites for the removal of the tension in Korea and promotion of her independent and peaceful reunification.

Now, the entire Korean people and the peoples of all countries of the world hold in unison that the present military confrontation between the north and the south which is fraught with the danger of a new war must be removed at the earliest possible date and tension be cleared away, if peace is to be preserved in our country and its reunification achieved.

The Korean Armistice Agreement signed in July 1953, to all intents and purposes, is an agreement on military armistice. It can not guarantee a durable peace.

Today when a long period has passed since its signing, the armistice agreement itself has already become outdated and it is unsuited to the reality in many respects.

Accordingly, it stands out as a matured requirement that brooks no further delay today to replace the Korean Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement.

In view of all these conditions, at meetings of the North-South Coordination Commission, we have repeatedly proposed to the south Korean side to sign a peace agreement between the north and the south and put forward concrete proposals for its realization, attaching primary importance to the removal of the present military confrontation.

As the south Korean authorities agreed to the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity and consented to hold political talks for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, we expected that they would naturally show sincerity by demanding the withdrawal of the foreign troops from south Korea and choosing to solve the reunification question between Koreans themselves in an independent way.

If the south Korean authorities had been faithful to the principles of the North-South Joint Statement including the principle of independence, as they firmly pledged to the whole nation, it would have been possible to conclude a peace agreement between the north and the south, rejecting US interference in our internal affairs, and make a signal progress in solving the reunification question between Koreans themselves in a peaceful way.

But the whole course of the dialogue between the north and the south showed that tension can not be removed nor can peace be consolidated in Korea as long as the US troops remain in south Korea and that the south Korean authorities have neither intention nor capacity to solve this question.

Now it is as plain as noonday that however long we may discuss the questions of removing the military confrontation and signing a peace agreement with the south Korean authorities, it is meaningless.

Therefore, if the armistice agreement is to be replaced with a peace agreement under the present condition, it is right and proper to settle the question between the parties concerned which hold real power to guarantee it with certainty. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States of America are the two signatories to the Korean Armistice Agreement and the actual parties concerned.

The Korean Armistice Agreement was signed at first between the Korean People's Army and the Chinese People's Volunteers on the one hand and the "United Nations forces" on the other, but the Chinese People's Volunteers withdrew from Korea already long ago and the so-called "United Nations forces" present in south Korea are, in fact, none other than the US army.

Basing ourselves on all these facts, we consider that, to create prerequisites for the clearance of tension in Korea, the removal of external factors obstructive to the independent reunification of Korea and the independent solution of the reunification question between the Koreans, the question of signing a peace agreement must be solved directly with the United States, the party concerned which has its troops stationed in south Korea, holds the whole supreme command of the armed forces and signed the armistice agreement.

In proposing a peace agreement with the United States, we seek, in the long run, to put an early end to foreign interference in our internal affairs, the root cause of the permanent tension in our country, and open a favourable phase for settlement of the internal affairs of the nation by the efforts of Koreans themselves, on all accounts.

Today the cause of unstable and strained situation persisting in Korea lies, in fact, in the manoeuvres of interference of US imperialism in our internal affairs.

Even after the announcement of the North-South Joint Statement and the start of the dialogue between the north and the south, the US imperialists are inciting a split, handing over quantities of various modern weapons and military equipment to the south Korean authorities, committing military provocations and staging military exercises against the northern half of the Republic and perpetrating espionage and hostile acts by the "SR-71" high-speed, high-altitude reconnaissance planes in continued, crude violation of the armistice agreement.

It is because of the United States keeping its troops in south Korea indefinitely and patronizing the south Korean fascist regime that the south Korean authorities brutally suppress the people under the pretext of fictitious "threat of southward aggression", brandishing the bayonets supplied by the United States, with its backing.

It is because of the United States ceaselessly supplying the south Korean authorities with arms on the plea of buttressing them in the dialogue that they are blocking the peaceful settlement of the reunification question, vociferating about "a showdown by strength" with us.

Why does the United States argue that there must be arms behind the dialogue, if it is interested in the maintenance of peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification? This cannot be construed otherwise than an attempt to freeze division.

It is also due to the US government authorities that the division of Korea is dragging on indefinitely and her reunification has not yet been realized. For peace and peaceful reunification of Korea, therefore, all interfering machinations of the United States must be brought to an end and the US troops must get out of south Korea.

No disturbance would occur even if the US troops pull out of south Korea.

If only the US troops get out of south Korea, the south Korean people will choose their way of life as they please and the Korean people will be able to smoothly realize the peaceful reunification of the country as they want.

All the Korean people aspire after reunification and no force can divide our nation into two by force.

We consider that the following points must be included in a peace agreement with the United States for removing the military confrontation between the north and the south, achieving a lasting peace in our country and creating prerequisites for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country:

Firstly, both sides shall pledge to each other not to invade the other side and shall remove all the danger of direct armed conflict.

The United States shall be obliged not to instigate the south Korean authorities to war provocation manoeuvres and fascist repression of the south Korean people or patronize them, not to obstruct the north and the south of Korea in reunifying the country independently and peacefully in accordance with the North-South Joint Statement and not to interfere in any form in the internal affairs of Korea;

Secondly, the two sides shall discontinue arms reinforcement and arms race and stop introducing any weapons, combat equipment and war supplies into Korea;

Thirdly, the berets of the "United Nations forces" shall be taken off the foreign troops stationed in south Korea and they all be withdrawn at the earliest possible date along with all their weapons;

Fourthly, Korea shall not be made a military base or operational base of any foreign country after the withdrawal of all foreign troops from south Korea.

If a peace agreement containing these points is concluded between our Republic and the United States of America and the existing military armistice agreement is replaced with it, the basic factor fraught with the danger of a new war in our country will be eradicated, the military confrontation be removed and the tension between the north and the south be practically eased.

This will mark an epochal milestone in bringing to an end the United States' interference in the internal affairs of our country and solving the national reunification question between the Koreans in a peaceful way.

To sign a peace agreement between us and the United States and replace the Korean Armistice Agreement with it will be an important measure in creating favourable conditions for the attainment of a durable peace in Korea and the independent and peaceful solution of the Korean question and, furthermore, will make a great contribution to guaranteeing peace and security in Asia and the rest of the world.

This fully conforms with the interests of the people of the United States, too.

We formally propose the United States of America to discuss the question of replacing the existing military armistice agreement with a peace agreement.

We consider that Panmunjom where the contacts between the two sides take place now is proper for the venue to discuss the question and a third country will also do, if the two sides agree.

In the light of the importance of the question to be solved, it is advisable to form the delegations of the two sides to participate in its discussion with delegates of a rank higher than those of the Korean Military Armistice Commission.

If the present authorities of the United States truly want peace in Korea and the peaceful solution of the Korean question, not in empty talk, they should accept our realistic proposal for replacing the Korean Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement and take part in the discussion of the question with sincerity.

We consider that this is an unavoidable duty the United States assumed before the Korean people and the world people in the Korean Armistice Agreement in the name of the "United Nations".

It is an invariable policy of our Party and the Government of the Republic to reject all manner of interference of outside forces in our internal affairs and settle the domestic issue of our nation by the efforts of the Korean people themselves with the right to national self-determination and in a peaceful way through negotiation and collaboration between the north and the south, not by confrontation and war.

We firmly believe that all the peace-loving countries and peoples of the world who have always actively supported the endeavours of our Party and the Government of the Republic for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country will positively support and encourage with might and main the above proposal of the Government of the Republic.

In conclusion, the reporter noted that our people's national cause of the country's reunification is just and there is no more urgent and important task for the Korean people than to reunify the divided fatherland and he appealed to us all to unite rock-firm around the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung, the sun of the nation and genius of revolution, and energetically hew the highway of the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, under the internal and external situation taking a favourable turn for us.

"We Will Accomplish Brilliant Feat in Battle for Great Socialist Construction with Honour and Joy of Today"

Our working people are now deeply moved and quite delighted by the law of the Supreme People's Assembly on the complete abolition of taxation system.

Choe Yong Su, head of a workteam of the third building shop of the Construction Office of the Kim Chaek Iron Works, had this to say:

The fatherly leader Comrade Kim Il Sung devotes himself entirely to the happiness of the people. Thanks to his deep solicitude, our country has become the first tax-free country in the history of mankind and our people have been freed from all tax burdens once and for all.

The fatherly leader not only provided our people with the most superior socialist system but also built a powerful socialist independent national economy, holding aloft the revolutionary banner of Juche. Thus our country has become a state with the powerful economy, the state which is not affected in the least by the world-wide economic fluctuation.

The fatherly leader diverts all the wealth of society to the betterment of the well-being of the people. And under his wise guidance there has been laid a firm economic foundation which can develop the national economy more rapidly and increase the property of the country without collecting taxes from the working people. This enabled our country to take such a daring measure as completely abolishing taxes for the first time in the history of mankind.

We are firmly resolved to absolutize the leader's teaching and carry it through to the end unconditionally and accomplish a brilliant feat in the battle for the great socialist construction with the honour and joy of today.

Kim Yong Gwan, Assistant Captain of Chollima Boat No. 558 of the First Fleet of the Wonsan Fishery, said:

We are now deeply moved and excited.

It is not because we have been emancipated from the tax burden, after having been weighed down hard by heavy taxes as in capitalist countries.

It is no exaggeration to say that we paid almost no taxes before.

We are excited with boundless joy over the fact that taxes have been completely abolished in our country. Thanks to the abolition of the taxation system, a hangover of the old society, our people have become a glorious people who have been freed completely from the tax burden for the first time in the history of mankind.

Today the south Korean people under US imperialist colonial rule are in dire distress due to skyrocketing prices and heavy tax burdens. Due to taxation, they go bankrupt, have their property attached and are kicked out of their houses.

The abolition of taxation in our country will become a terrible bomb proclaiming the inevitability of the doom of the US imperialist aggressors and their stooges who harshly exploit and plunder the people. It will greatly inspire the south Korean people who are fighting vigorously for the right to live and democratic freedom and for the independent, peaceful reunification of the country.

An Yon Ok, head of the twice Chollima third workteam with the Chollima prize of honour at the Sobaeksan Timber Station of the Chollima Limyongsu Forestry Office, said in an excited tone:

The great fatherly leader Comrade Kim Il Sung dedicates himself entirely to the happiness of the people. The complete abolition of taxes in our country is the realization of his lofty intention to free our people even from the burden of taxes, a legacy of the old society. And it is the manifestation of his deep love and profound solicitude for the people.

It demonstrates the incomparable superiority and great vitality of our socialist system provided by him.

Kim Jun Gun, a functionary of the Pyongsong City Administrative Committee, had this to say:

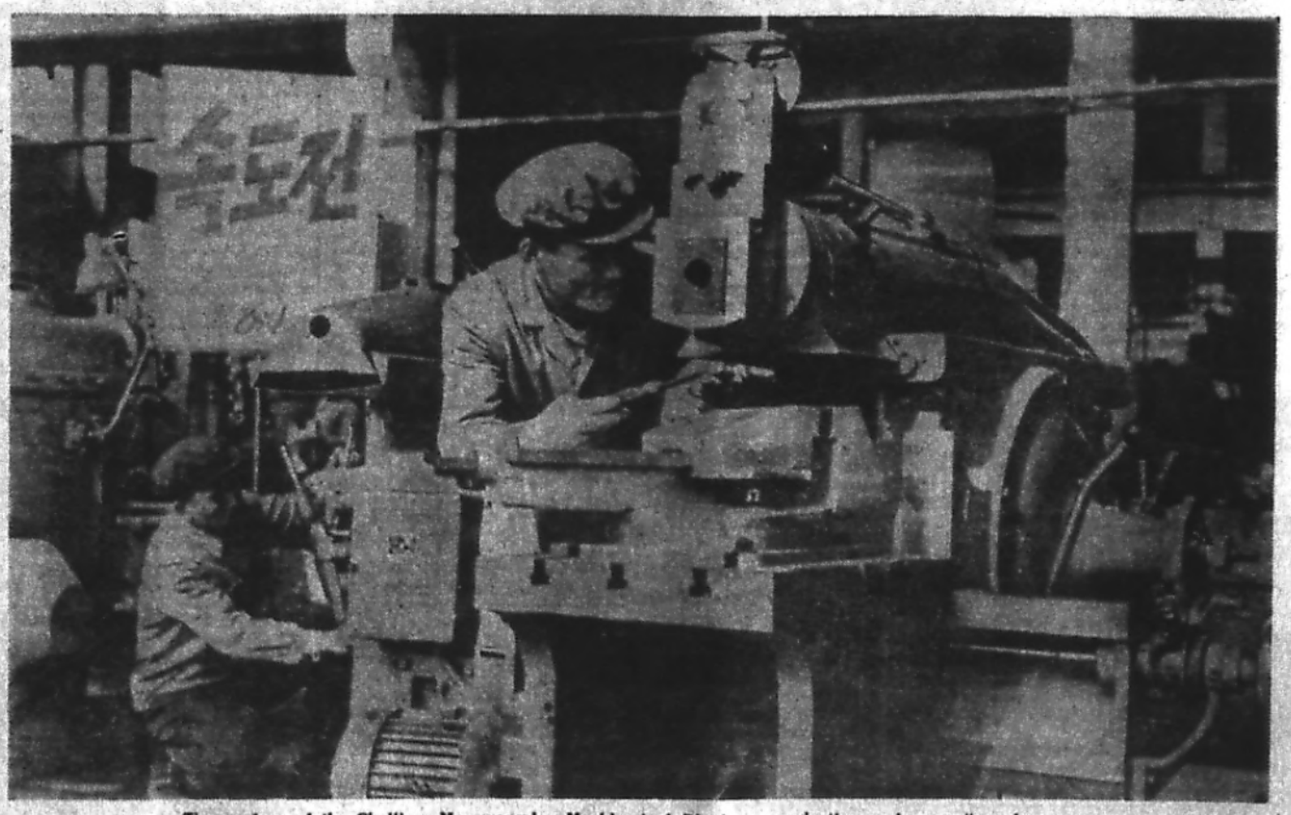
In the exploiting society, the reactionary ruling circles say that taxes are an "obligation" of the population to the "state" and propagate that taxes are indispensable for all countries.

However, the complete abolition of the taxation system in our country graphically shows that taxes are not always essential in all societies and that mankind can and must build tax-free countries.

Ko Chol Hwan, a worker of the Tonggu Industrial Construction Office in Pyongyang, evinced his determination in an excited tone:

Cherishing deep in mind the boundless honour and happiness of living in the first tax-free country ever recorded in world history, I will remain forever loyal to the leader who has enabled our people to enjoy the most affluent and happiest life and shows constant solicitude for them. As one of the constructors in charge of the front of capital construction in the great socialist construction, I will launch an energetic "speed-up campaign" with youthful vigor. I am resolved to make an active contribution to winding up before October 10 the construction of light industrial factories which my construction office undertook this year and to further strengthening the material and technical foundations of the country and making the people's life more cultured.

Kang Bong Won



The workers of the Chollima Mangyongdae Machine-tool Plant are conducting a vigorous "speed-up campaign" with high pride of being masters of the first tax-free country

Agricultural Working People of Sukchon Rise to Create "Loyal, Innovative County in Honour of 10th Anniversary of Publication of Theses on Rural Question"

All the functionaries and agricultural working people in Sukchon County are now raising higher the flame of their struggle for new innovations, upholding the revolutionary policy of grand socialist construction advanced by the great revolutionary leader Comrade Kim Il Sung at the 8th Plenary Meeting of the 5th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and his highly important teachings given in the New Year Address for 1974 and at the National Congress on Agriculture.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung has taught:

"By making a decisive advance in the rural technical revolution this year, we should greet the tenth anniversary of the publication of the theses more significantly, relieve the peasants of toilsome labour a great deal and capture the grain height of the Six-Year Plan without fail."

Bearing this programmatic teaching of the leader's deep in their minds, the people of Sukchon County have risen to win the honour of an innovative county by making an enormous leap forward in carrying out the tasks set in the Theses on the rural question and increasing the agricultural production as a whole, and thus adorn the current year, the 10th anniversary of the publication of the Theses, with greater results. With this determination they have put up the slogan: "Let us rise as one to create a 'loyal, innovative county in honour of 10th anniversary of publication of Theses on rural question' with attitude worthy of master of revolution!"

In order to make their county a "loyal, innovative county in honour of 10th anniversary of publication of Theses on rural question", they made the following resolutions:

—To give definite priority to the ideological revolution to see that all the agricultural working people arm themselves firmly with the great Juche idea of the leader, only the blood of Juche-type circulates through their hearts and they display to the full the revolutionary tone of absolutizing the leader's teachings and the Party policies and carry them out immediately and unconditionally;

—To give every possible assistance to the farm villages and promote industrialization and modernization of agriculture so as to introduce comprehensive mechanization and chemicalization in 50 per cent of both the paddy and maize fields in the county;

—To strengthen the industrial method of guidance in agricultural production so that the principles of the right crop on the right soil and the right crop at the right time may be observed and scientific and technical methods of farming applied to raise the per-*chongbo* output to 8 tons in rice crop and 10 tons in maize crop on an average and reach the goal of 150,000 tons of grain throughout the county and hit the grain target of the Six-Year Plan this year; and to make a big success in all other branches of farming—meat production, vegetable cultivation, fruit growing, cocoon production and so on;

—To push forward the rural cultural revolution to further elevate the general level of the technical and cultural knowledge of the co-op farmers and let more than 6,800 young and middle-aged people learn how to drive tractor this year; to build more modern farm houses, rice storehouses, farm implement warehouses and production facilities; and to complete water service projects in rural communities;

—To make all the co-op farms of the county "loyal, innovative farms in honour of 10th anniversary of publication of Theses on rural question".

They are now all out to put their resolve into practice.

The functionaries of the county Party committee and all other officials in the county apply the work methods of the anti-Japanese guerilla style in rallying the masses around the leader more closely and inspiring them to carry through his teachings. They penetrate deep into the realities and work together with the masses, kindling the flame of new innovation among them.

The functionaries of the county cooperative farm management committee are intensifying the industrial method of guidance of the agricultural production, introducing detailed planning in plot tending for scientific and technical farming and strengthening the work with technicians. Moreover, they are endeavouring to make the best use of material and technical means in the service of the rural economy of the county, maintaining a unified control over them.

The officials of the county administrative committee are vigorously pushing ahead with the work to construct modern farm houses and production facilities, relying on the reinforced base for production of building materials. They are also striving to have water service projects finished as early as possible.

The county farm machine station has consolidated its repair base and almost finished repairing tractors. The workers of the irrigation administration office have also brought to completion the rearrangement of water-lifting machines and other irrigation facilities.

This is how a great stride is being made in the preparation for the coming farming in Sukchon County.

The flame of innovation that blazed up in this county is spreading across the country. Many counties have now joined in the drive to create a "loyal, innovative county in honour of 10th anniversary of publication of Theses on rural question".

Kim Su Yon

Upholding the leader's instruction, the agricultural working people of Soksan-ri, Hwangju County, are all out to create a "loyal, innovative farm in honour of tenth anniversary of publication of Theses on rural question". (Photo by Chong Ryol)

(Continued from Page 2)

to carry out thoroughly the self-defensive military line and further augment the defence power, so as to defend firmly the country and the people from aggression by the enemy.

Our Party and the Government of the Republic will increase this year the expenditure for social and cultural requirements 16 per cent as against last year.

We will earmark a huge amount of state budgetary expenditure in the educational field, an increase of 14 per cent as compared with last year.

In order to meet the requirements of grand socialist construction this year the Party and the Government will direct deep attention to developing science, literature and arts and physical culture and sports and will increase markedly the expenditure of funds in these fields.

The Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Republic envisage a marked increase over last year in this year's state budgetary expenditure earmarked for the improvement of the people's livelihood.

The prices of manufactured goods were drastically reduced—by 30 per cent on an average and 50 per cent at the maximum—in our country from March 1 this year and the taxes will be abolished completely from April 1 by the law adopted at the current Supreme People's Assembly session.

The sharp reduction of the prices of manufactured goods will give each household of our working people the benefit of 22 *won* on a monthly average and the abolition of all taxes will bring it the benefit of 6 *won*. This means that each household will receive the additional benefit of 28 *won* a month.

As a result, this year the real wages of the factory and office workers will grow 1.5 times and the real income of the farmers 1.6 times as against 1970.

This epochal measure is an expression of the warm fatherly love and deep care of the great leader Comrade Kim Il Sung for our people.

The Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Republic will appropriate 1.8 times as much funds as last year for extensive housing construction.

Along with this, as indicated by the Fifth Congress of the Party, we will quickly introduce water and bus services in the countryside and develop the clinics in rural *ri* into hospitals.

The reporter noted:

Indeed, our state budget is a truly popular one, because it serves most effectively the purpose of enabling the people to enjoy the profound solicitude of the fatherly leader who closely looks after their life in every facet and always concerns himself to make it more bountiful and cultured.

Ours is a budget aimed to spend for the interests of the people the money they have earned; it is a budget aimed to give enormous additional benefits to the working people annually without collecting taxes from them; it is the best popular budget that helps towards the even and rapid improvement of the living standards of the workers and farmers. Our people are really happy as they enjoy an independent and creative life to their satisfaction, benefited by this budget, under the utmost care of the leader.

In conclusion the reporter stressed:

Let us all march ahead vigorously for the preschedule fulfilment of the Six-Year Plan, for the victory in our endeavours to carry out grand socialist construction and for the early realization of the cause of independent national reunification, holding aloft the revolutionary banner of the ever-victorious Juche idea, rallied close around the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung.

DPRK and Republic of Guinea (Bissau) Establish Diplomatic Relations at Ambassadorial Level

A joint communique on establishing diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Guinea (Bissau) was signed in Conakry, the capital of Guinea, on March 16, according to a report from Conakry.

According to the joint communique, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Government of the Republic of Guinea (Bissau) reached an agreement on opening diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level and exchanging ambassadors to expand and develop the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries in all fields, political, economic and cultural, on the principles of complete equality, reciprocity, mutual respect of sovereignty and non-interference in each other's internal affairs, reflecting the desire and interests of the peoples of the two countries. **(KCNA)**

Grave Menace to Peace and Security of Countries on Indian Ocean

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung pointed out:

..."**Everything that has happened on the international scene in recent years glaringly shows the aggressive and predatory-nature of imperialism and above all of US imperialism.**" (Kim Il Sung, *Selected Works*, Eng. ed., Vol. V, p. 488.)

The US imperialists are intent on aggression and war provocation manoeuvres against other countries without letup in an attempt to realize an invariable ambition for world domination.

According to a foreign dispatch, they concluded with the British imperialists an "agreement" and are now actively pushing ahead with the plan to turn the Diego Garcia Island, which is situated in the centre of the Indian Ocean, into their big naval and air bases. This is a graphic illustration that shows how frantically they are trying to execute the policy of aggression and war, clamouring about "peace".

As already known, the US imperialists have long since furthered a vicious aim to infiltrate their aggressive armed forces into the Indian Ocean which stretches from the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean, having defined it as an important "operational zone".

When the Indo-Pakistani war broke out toward the close of 1971, US imperialism used it as a good pretext for hurriedly dispatching the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier "Enterprise" of its 7th Fleet to the Indian Ocean. During the fourth Middle East war in October of 1973 it sent a "special task force" consisting of aircraft carrier "Hancock", four destroyers and a tanker of the 7th Fleet. Its manoeuvre to deploy its aggressive armed forces in the Indian Ocean on one pretext or another has continued since then.

Schlesinger, US Defense Secretary, went so far as to prattle that "navigation of the US special task force to the Indian Ocean will be further regularized" and thus openly reveal the wild ambition to convert it into the "operational zone".

The scheme of the US imperialists to convert Diego Garcia Island into a military base proves that **their military advance to the Indian Ocean has already reached a grave stage.**

This nefarious aggressive move of US imperialism to turn the Diego Garcia Island into its military base is intended to put down ever-intensified anti-US struggle and national-liberation struggle of the peoples in Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Oceania and prop up by force of arms its aggressive stronghold in this region which is very shaky beyond retrieve.

In particular, it is a grave menace to peace and security of the Indian Ocean and its coastal region, and an intolerable challenge to the righteous cause of the peoples in this area for national independence, sovereignty and progress.

That is why the peoples there are resolutely opposing the US imperialists' manoeuvre to turn the Diego Garcia Island into their military base.

The government of Malagasy strongly condemned that manoeuvre, declaring that it "seriously endangers peace and security" of the Indian Ocean, and called on the peoples of Africa and other parts of the world, the non-aligned countries in particular, to check and thwart in unity the machination of US imperialism.

Moreover, the countries on the Indian Ocean—India, Sri-Lanka, Indonesia, Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Bangladesh—are unanimous in denouncing the US imperialist aggressive policy of building a military base in the Indian Ocean because they are directly menaced by it.

The struggle of the peoples of these countries is a just struggle to safeguard security and peace in this region.

The Korean people determinedly castigate the reckless scheme of US imperialism to build a large-scale military base in the Diego Garcia Island, and extend full support and solidarity to the struggle of the people in this region against it.

If the US imperialists continue with their foolhardy aggressive act in defiance of the unanimous denunciation of the peoples of countries on the Indian Ocean and other parts of the world, they will only suffer a bitter ignominious setback.

The US imperialists must go back to their den from the Indian Ocean, taking along their aggressive armed forces.

Song Jong Sik

No Force Can Check S. Korean People's Just Struggle

We mark the significant tenth anniversary of the March 24 Struggle of the south Korean youth and students today when the struggle against fascism and for democracy is surging higher than ever before in south Korea.

On March 24, 1964 the intelligent and brave south Korean youth and students turned out in the massive struggle to oppose Pak Jung Hi's fascist dictatorship and frustrate the "south Korea-Japan talks", where the south Korean puppets and the Japanese militarists were conducting negotiations for the country-selling and aggression under the manipulation of US imperialism.

Shouting the slogans: "We are dead set against the treacherous 'south Korea-Japan talks'." "Down with Japanese imperialism!" "Down with the corrupt and incompetent Pak regime!" "Let's smash intelligence-backed rule!" and "The United States, take off the mask!" the students out in the struggle closed in upon the citadel of the enemy and fought gallantly, defying the savage repression of the heavily armed puppet troops and policemen.

The resolute March 24 Struggle lasted two months and a half, involving more than 310,000 students of universities, colleges, high and middle schools and tens of thousands of people in various parts of south Korea. The struggle was a patriotic struggle to oppose foreign imperialist aggression and defend the dignity and sovereignty of the nation. It was a righteous struggle to sweep away fascist dictatorship and win democratic freedoms and rights.

Ten years have passed since then. But today all the demands of the March 24 fighters remain unsatisfied and south Korea is in grimmer reality than ever before.

The reinvasion of south Korea by the Japanese militarists has reached a very serious stage.

Today in south Korea the key branches of the economy are under the control of Japanese monopoly capital, Japanese fashions and way of life predominate and the domination of the Japanese militarists is being stepped up even in the political and military spheres. In fact south Korea is being converted into a dual colony of the US and Japanese aggressors.

The large-scale infiltration of the Japanese militarists into south Korea brings still greater misfortunes on the south Korean people and creates a new grave obstacle in the way of the country's reunification, a long-cherished desire of the Korean people.

This is an outcome of the treacherous policy pursued by the Pak Jung Hi puppet clique, a pack of traitors.

Suppressing the successive resistance of the south Korean people by force of arms, they brought the "south Korea-Japan talks" to a conclusion and rigged up the "south Korea-Japan agreements", and frantically drew in their old master, the Japanese militarists. Recently, they have sold off even "industrial properties", the industrial areas on the coast of the South Sea and the continental shelf resources.

The Pak Jung Hi clique subordinated south Korea to the US and Japanese aggressors through and through. On the other hand they have been intent on vicious manoeuvres to further strengthen their fascist dictatorship and perpetuate the split of the country, in an attempt to realize their avaricious desire for long-term office.

Owing to the Pak Jung Hi clique's country-selling treacherous acts and their mediaeval despotism, the bright prospects for reunification opened up before our people at the time of the publication of the July 4 North-South Joint Statement are now getting out of their sight and south Korea is being reduced to a hell on earth, to a prison in the full sense of the term.

Where there are exploitation and oppression, there always breaks out the revolutionary struggle of the people.

Last year the south Korean youth and students and people waged a massive struggle against the fascist dictatorship and the country-selling treacherous act of the Pak Jung Hi clique, against the aggression of the outside forces and for the democratic freedom and national reunification. They fought braving brutal suppression even in the appalling "state of emergency". This is a natural consequence of the present miserable situation of south Korea.

The just struggle of the south Korean people enlists the active support of the Government and people of the Republic.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung said:

"Our support to the revolutionary struggle of the south Korean people is by no means an 'interference in another's internal affairs', but it is for solving by ourselves the internal affairs of our nation. As one and the same nation, we regard it as our natural duty to support the revolutionary struggle of the south Korean people."

In the future, too, we, as one and the same nation, will give active support and encouragement to the south Korean people in their just struggle to deliver the country and the people and achieve national reunification. We will stand firmly on the side of the fighting south Korean brothers at all times.

With no amount of frenzy can the Pak Jung Hi clique head off the struggle of the south Korean youth and students and people and save themselves from doom.

Li Jip

Friendship Visits

☆ A delegation of the National United Independence Party of Zambia headed by Comrade Henry S. Meebelo, Director of the Policy Research Institute of the Central Committee of the National United Independence Party of Zambia, visited our country from March 12 to 19 at the invitation of the CC of the Workers' Party of Korea.

☆ A delegation of the Soviet Union headed by V.G. Morozov, Vice-Chairman of the State Foreign Economic Relations Committee of the USSR Council of Ministers, visited our country from March 12 to 19 to attend the celebrations of the 25th anniversary of the signing of the agreement on economic and cultural cooperation between Korea and the Soviet Union.

☆ A delegation of the Federal Economic Chamber of Austria headed by Rudolf Sallinger, Member of Parliament of the Republic of Austria and Director of the Federal Economic Chamber of Austria, arrived in Pyongyang on March 22 for a visit to our country at the invitation of the DPRK Committee for Promotion of International Trade.

Pyongyang Mass Meeting Marks Fourth Anniversary of NUFK and NLPAFC

On the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the creation of the National United Front of Kampuchea and the National Liberation People's Armed Forces of Cambodia, the Pyongyang mass meeting was held on March 21 at the Chollima House of Culture under the co-sponsorship of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland, Pyongyang City Administrative Committee and the Korea-Cambodia Friendship Association.

Present at the meeting together with the working people in the city were Choe Jae U, Vice-Premier; Ho Jong Suk, Director of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland; and functionaries concerned.

Invited to the meeting were Charge d'Affaires ad interim Bou Khin and staff members of the Cambodian embassy in Pyongyang and the Cambodian students studying in our country.

The meeting opened with the playing of the national anthem of Cambodia and the Patriotic Song of our country. Wang Gyong Hak, Vice-Chairman of the Pyongyang City Administrative Committee, made a speech.

Marking the fourth anniversary of the formation of the National United Front of Kampuchea and the National Liberation People's Armed Forces of Cambodia, he, in the name of the entire Korean people and Pyongyang citizens, extended warm congratulations and militant greetings to the NUFK with Head of State of Cambodia Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as its Chairman, the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia and the fraternal Khmer people and to all fighters of the NLPAFC.

He pointed to brilliant war results achieved by the heroic Khmer people and their armed forces. They, he said, inflicted one serious military and political setback after another upon US imperialism and its stooges and liberated 90 per cent of the whole territory inhabited by over 5.5 million out of 7 million population. He warmly congratulated the National Liberation People's Armed Forces and the Khmer people on the brilliant successes they have achieved under the correct leadership of the National United Front of Kampuchea.

He stressed that the Cambodian question must be solved by the Khmer people themselves in accordance with the 5-point declaration announced on March 23, 1970, by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Head of State of Cambodia, and wished the Khmer people greater victory in their future struggle.

Bou Khin, Charge d'Affaires ad interim, spoke next.

He said that the coup d'etat cooked up by the US imperialists and the Pnom-Penh lackeys destroyed independence, peace and neutrality of Cambodia and converted her into the base for US aggression, bringing innumerable miseries and hardships to the Khmer people. Then he exposed and denounced all sorts of outrages committed by the US imperialists.

He extended heartfelt congratulations to the Korean people's achievements attained in their efforts for the complete victory of socialism and the independent, peaceful reunification of their country under the wise leadership of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il Sung and expressed active support to his policy for the country's reunification. He strongly demanded that the US imperialists withdraw from south Korea at once.

Meanwhile, the photo exhibition and film show were arranged that evening under the co-sponsorship of the Korean Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries and the Korea-Cambodia Friendship Association at the Chollima House of Culture on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the creation of the NUFK and the NLPAFC and a week of solidarity with the fighting Khmer people.

Yun Hae Ik

Hail 18th Anniversary of Proclamation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Pakistan proclaimed itself an Islamic republic on March 23, 18 years ago.

Today the Korean people send warm congratulations to the friendly people of Pakistan.

The proclamation of the Islamic republic caused a radical change in their life.

The Pakistani government and people nationalized the factories and other enterprises which belonged to foreign monopolies, carried out the land reform and brought the educational establishments under the state control and management and took other series of progressive measures. Meanwhile, they strove to develop the national economy and culture.

Especially, they directed much effort to the development of agriculture, a key branch of the economy, and have increased the output of various agricultural products. And they gave profound attention to developing industry with the domestic raw materials, with the result that textile mills, jute processing factories and many other factories and enterprises were either expanded or newly built.

Considerable successes have also been made in the fields of education, culture and public health.

Externally, the Pakistani government and people have actively supported the world people in their struggle against aggression and interference of the imperialists and for consolidation of national independence, and have made efforts to develop the friendly relations with our country and other socialist countries.

The Pakistani government and people give positive support to the Korean people in their struggle to drive the foreign forces out of south Korea and achieve the independent, peaceful reunification of the country. This is an expression of their firm solidarity with our people's struggle for putting into effect the line of the independent, peaceful reunification advanced by Comrade Kim Il Sung, the respected and beloved leader of our people.

Moreover, Pakistan withdrew completely from "SEATO", a tool of US imperialism for its Asian aggression.

The anti-imperialist steps taken by the Pakistani government and people reflect their stand against the aggressive policy of US imperialism and their desire for independence and self-sustenance. This proves a heavy blow to the US imperialists and their stooges.

The Korean people heartily rejoice over all the successes scored by the friendly Pakistani people and actively support the anti-imperialist, anti-US imperialist steps boldly taken by the Pakistani government and people.

Our people sincerely wish the Pakistani people greater successes in their struggle against imperialism and colonialism and for consolidation of the national independence and development of the national economy and culture.

Han Dok Yon

DPRK Admitted to Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee

Our country was admitted to the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee on March 15.

This committee is a governmental international organization and it performs the functions of expressing its attitude on the legal questions arising between the countries in Asia and Africa and exchanging opinions and informations related to other legal problems. **(KCNA)**

DPRK National Olympic Committee Admitted to Asian Games Federation

The National Olympic Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was admitted to the Asian Games Federation on March 9.

This decision was unanimously adopted at a meeting of the member nations of the Asian Games Federation held in Teheran, the capital of Iran, from March 9 to 11.

A delegation of our country attended the meeting.

The meeting discussed a number of problems concerning the seventh Asian games to be held in Teheran in September this year. **(KCNA)**

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